

Appl. No. 09/631,239
Amdt. Dated 01/04/2005
Reply to Office action of 08/04/2004

Amendments to the CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for switching between the command-mode and text-mode of operation in a voice-recognition system-systems, comprising the step of:

operating the voice-recognition application in one of a command mode or a text-mode, using a switch to switch between a command mode of operation and a text mode of operation in a voice-recognition system, wherein the command-mode is used to issue commands ~~to~~ for anyone of a plurality of applications that are executable on a computer operated by on which the voice-recognition system resides, and wherein the text-mode is used to insert text into a software application using the voice-recognition system;

detecting a position change in a switching device; and

in response to detecting the position change, operating the voice recognition application in the other of the command mode or the text mode; and

wherein when the voice-recognition application is in the command-mode, the method further comprises recognizing a voice input by a user as a command for an application that is identified from the voice input and that is different than an application in use with the voice recognition application in the text mode.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for switching between the command-mode and text-mode of operation in voice-recognition systems, wherein the apparatus is provided with a computer having a voice-recognition system, and wherein the apparatus comprises: comprising:

~~— a computer having a voice-recognition system; and~~

a switch having at least two positions, including a first position for switching between using the voice-recognition system in a command-mode of operation and a

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second position for using the voice-recognition system in a text-mode of operation in a
the voice-recognition system, wherein the voice-recognition application in the command-
mode is used to issue commands to any one of two or more applications operated on the
computer, a the computer operated by and wherein the voice-recognition system and in
the text-mode is used to insert text into a software application using the voice-recognition
system at least one of the two applications.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 2, wherein the
apparatus ~~is used with~~ further comprises a microphone that enables the voice-recognition
system to receive spoken commands and spoken text, wherein the microphone only
being is configured to be switched on only when the switch is positioned for the voice-
recognition system to be in either in the command-mode or the text mode.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 2, wherein the
switch is a mechanical switch moveable between the first position and the second
position.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 4, wherein the
switch is a spring-controlled slide switch.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 5, wherein the
spring-controlled slide switch has a first operating position at which the microphone is
turned off, a second operating position at which the microphone is turned on in the
command-mode, and a third operating position at which the microphone is turned on in
the text-mode.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 6, wherein the first
position is a default position such that when a user slides the switch from the first
position to the second position and then releases the switch, the switch returns to the first
position, and when the user slides the switch from the first position to the third position
and then releases the switch, the switch returns to the first position.

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Claim 9: (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein ~~further comprising~~ at least one button ~~is used that is moveable between the first position and the second position in order~~ to switch between the command-mode and the text-mode.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein the apparatus further comprises a computer mouse for enabling a user to operate the switch.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein the apparatus ~~is further~~ comprises a microphone on which the switch is provided.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein the apparatus combines the functionality of both a microphone and a mouse/cursor control device in enabling the user to use the voice-recognition system and to operate the switch.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein the apparatus further comprises a wireless device for enabling the user to operate the switch.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein the apparatus comprises a cable for enabling the user to operate the switch.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein a portion of the apparatus operates ~~at using~~ an infrared frequency that indicates whether the switch has moved between the first position and the second position.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The apparatus ~~according to~~ Claim 2, wherein a portion of the apparatus operates at a radio frequency.

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Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A system for switching between the command-mode and text-mode of operation in voice-recognition systems, wherein the system is provided on a computer having a microphone coupled to it to receive voice input from a user, wherein the system comprises:~~comprising:~~

~~a computer;~~

~~a microphone coupled to the computer; and~~

a voice-recognition software executable on the computer system, wherein the voice-recognition software is configured to enable the~~the system enabling a user to~~ switch between a command-mode of operation and a text-mode of operation ~~in a voice-recognition system,~~ wherein the voice-recognition software is operable in the command-mode ~~is used to process voice input as issue commands that are issued to a the computer, operated by the voice-recognition system and wherein the voice-recognition software is~~ operable in the text-mode is used to insert to process voice input as text for into a software application ~~using the voice-recognition system; and~~

wherein the voice-recognition software includes a software-executable switch that is manually operable by the user to switch the voice-recognition software between the command-mode and the text-mode.

Claim 18 CANCEL

Claim 19 CANCEL

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 17, wherein when the voice-recognition system ~~software (i) is is being operated in the command-mode and (ii) is unable to understand a spoken command, the system~~ voice-recognition software prompts the user to select the an intended command from a plurality of commands, and wherein the voice-recognition software displays displayed on a display device by the system which the system believes the user intended by the spoken command at least some of the plurality of commands to aid the user in selecting the intended command.

Claim 21 CANCEL

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Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 17, wherein voice-recognition software is configured to detect the user selects-speaking the intended command using a spoken command in response to the intended command being displayed as one of the plurality of commands that are displayed.